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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



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 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Crowds flock to Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by Mike Coles

How our High Road parking could change

By Diana Cormack

Barnet Council has responded to views put forward by local traders at a meeting held in May with Dean Cohen, Cabinet Minister for the Environment (*THE ARCHER*, June 2013). The meeting was organised by fishmonger Peter Barnett to air problems caused by parking restrictions along the High Road and Fortis Green.

As a result, the following measures have been proposed for East Finchley as part of the town centre and shopping parade parking review:

1. To introduce credit and debit card Pay and Display machines as an alternative to Pay by Phone.

2. To convert some existing short-term Pay by Phone parking bays south of Fortis Green to medium-term (up to four hours). This would enable cinema goers to see a complete programme at the Phoenix.

3. To allow 15-minute free parking in loading bays in off-peak periods. Existing short-stay Pay by Phone bays along the High Road would be replaced with new loading bays.

4. To limit blue badge holder parking within existing Pay by Phone parking bays to one hour.

5. To investigate the feasibility of relocating the southbound bus stop from outside 104-112 High Road (near Poseidon) to provide a loading bay of equal length. The loading bay outside 130/134 High Road (Madden's) would be removed to allow for

the relocation of the southbound bus stop.

The traders now have the chance to respond to these proposals, with such things as the tariff still being worked on.

Mr Barnett told *THE ARCHER*: "This is pretty much what we were asking for. We'd like to have seen more free parking but it's better than none at all. There are still more negotiations to come, but it's a step in the right direction. Even if they only did this, it's a lot better than it is now."

To see a large version of the proposed plans, pop into A Scott and Son Fishmongers at 94 High Road, where it is displayed on the wall.

Delivering THE ARCHER

Could you help distribute *The Archer* once a month? We are looking for a volunteer with their own car who could drop copies of the paper to some of our deliverers in the East End Road area.

The drops would take no more than 30 minutes each month. If you can help, please email us at the-archer@lineone.net or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

Festival is back with a bang!

Turn to pages 6 and 7 our photo special

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THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address. Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines – August: 12 July, September: 16 August, October: 13 September

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:	
Admin/Town Hall	020 8359 2000
Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust	020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
Haringey Council	020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library	020 8359 3815
Muswell Hill Odeon	0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema	020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema	020 8446 9933

Transport

Nat. Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
City Airport	020 7646 0088
London Transport	020 7222 1234
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General	0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial	020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic	020 8349 7000
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline	020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Barnodoc	0300 033 3777
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
Cancer Support	020 8202 2211
Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
MIND	020 8343 5700
NHS Direct	0845 4647

OAPs' Advice

Age UK	020 820 35040
Contact (N2)	020 8432 1415

Crime

Emergency	999
Barnet Police	101
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer	
Neighbourhood Team	020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Advice Barnet Project	0844 826 9336
CAB Money Advice	020 8201 7727
Carers' Line	020 8343 9698
Childline	0800 1111
Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
NSPCC	0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse	020 8683 3300
Relate	020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector	0300 1234 999
RSPCA animal clinic	020 8365 3910
Samaritans	08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

East Finchley network for all

The East Finchley Altogether Better project (EFAB) is a new initiative designed to connect local people, groups, programmes and the businesses and services in the community.

Local people of all ages can come together to discuss what they are doing now and what they would like to change or improve. EFAB aims to connect neighbours with similar interests and to provide positive opportunities to explore what the community could be.

To hear what might be achieved by pooling knowledge and taking the scheme forward, people who live or work in East Finchley are invited to turn up to EFAB's first one-day conference on Thursday 4 July, from 10am to 3pm at Shree Aden Depala Mitra Mandal Community Centre, 67a Church Lane, N2 8DR. Guests can bring friends, family, neighbours and colleagues.

This will be a proactive event. There will be some presentations with opportunities to

circulate, to explore a variety of topics in groups and to share ideas with other residents, local businesses, and organisations. Refreshments will be provided.

This initiative is a community-led project which has the support of a wide range of organisations, including CommunityBarnet, Finchley Charities, Barnet Council, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and Barnet Older People's Assembly.

Feel free to attend, or if you wish to register an interest, get in touch with Roger Chapman, Peter Cragg, Asmina Remtulla and Shirley Rodwell via eastfinchleyaltogetherbetter@gmail.com or write to: Stephen Craker, c/o Finchley Memorial Hospital, Granville Road, Finchley, N12 0JE.

Squat closed down in Leslie Road

By Janet Maitland

A squat in Leslie Road has been closed down by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Police went to the address on 23 May accompanied by Environmental Health Officers.

"We quickly established that the venue was being used as a squat and that the squatters had bypassed the electric box," said Sergeant Matt Clew. "We arrested six Romanian men on suspicion of abstracting electricity and squatting. I managed to get hold of the owner who agreed to let the local authority board up the property."

The squatters were released and told not to return to the venue to collect their belongings unless they were under police supervision.

For the last few months a group of people working in pairs has been seen going through bins in East Finchley collecting discarded household items, cardboard and other

unwanted rubbish. The squatters are believed to be the same group. "Hopefully now we have closed this squat down, they will move out of the borough," said Sergeant Clew.

Do you have a story for us?

You can send your stories and photos to the-archer@lineone.net or by post to the address top left. Tweet us @TheArcherN2 and find us on Facebook. You can also find out more about contributing and advertising at www.the-archer.co.uk

Beware slimming supplements!

An Archer reader has contacted us with a disturbing warning. She recently bought a widely advertised slimming supplement online, but thankfully had second thoughts before actually taking any of it.

When she consulted her local pharmacist, she was told not even to think about trying it. Like other similar supplements, it had not been fully tested and evaluated, and for someone like herself with medical problems the side-effects could have been very serious. Even people without problems could be risking their health by taking untested supplements.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

48 Bancroft Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

26 Beresford Road, N2

Roof extension, including hip to gable, three roof lights, and rear window with Juliet balcony, to facilitate loft conversion.

41 Brim Hill, N2

Partial demolition of rear projection. New single-storey side extension. Replacement of garage door with timber doors.

110 Brim Hill, N2

Roof extension, including front and rear dormer windows and removal of Juliet balcony, to facilitate loft conversion. Single-storey side and rear extension.

24A Chandos Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

28 Church Lane, N2. Ground floor rear flat.

Change of use from A1 (Commercial) to C3 (Residential): one self-contained unit.

222 Creighton Avenue, N2.

Single-storey rear extension with proposed depth of six

metres and maximum height of 3.6 metres.

42 Hamilton Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

119 High Road, N2

Partial change of use of rear room to therapy room (Class D1).

238 High Road, N2

Amendment to previously approved application for three-storey building, to accommodate eight self-contained flats and a ground-floor commercial unit, plus eight car parking spaces, cycle storage, and associated hard and soft landscape. Amendment to include additional roof level window to side elevation.

52 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear conservatory.

13 Vivian Way, N2

Conversion of garage into habitable room. Replacement of windows and doors. New front door.

Haringey Council

1 Alexandra Mews, N2

Two rear dormers and one side roof light.

Grass verge outside Manor Court, Aylmer Road, N2

New 12.5 m. street furniture telecommunications tower to replace existing one, and three additional equipment cabinets.

1 Church Vale, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for rear dormer, new front and rear roof lights and rear ground floor extension.

21 Church Vale, N2

Removal of boiler house at rear ground floor level, and new rear ground and first-floor extensions.

124 Creighton Avenue, N2

Reversion from two flats to single dwelling, with rear ground-floor extension and elevation alteration.

13 Fortismere Avenue, N10

Certificate of Lawfulness for rear ground-floor extension.

3 Lauradale Road, N2

Certificate of Lawfulness for roof extension and rear dormer, with four front roof lights and new window to side elevation.

19 Lynmouth Road, N2

Rear single-storey infill extension.

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Promise to rebuild community centre destroyed by arson

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has promised to rebuild the Somali Bravanese Community Centre in Muswell Hill which was burnt to the ground in the early hours of Wednesday 5 June. Police have confirmed that the fire was started deliberately.

"I have no intention of leaving a hateful scar on the landscape," said Richard Cornelius, leader of the council.

The letters EDL, the initials of the far right group the English Defence League, were found daubed on a wall in the remains of the building. Officers from the Counter Terrorism Command are leading the investigation. Tommy Robinson, the leader of the EDL, has denied responsibility.

Community resource

Local people have been deeply shocked and disturbed by the attack. "It was such a warm and welcoming community resource, not only for the Somali community but for others too," said Rachel Abedi. "Its destruction affects the whole community."

The centre has received widespread support from community groups, politicians, unions and religious organisations. "We were always welcomed there and made many friendships," said Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg. "Across all Jewish communities there's a very strong wish to support the centre in any way we can."

London-wide support

Hundreds of people from all over London came to a vigil outside the burnt-out building organised by Unite Against Fas-

cism shortly after the fire. "This shows that we are not divided," said Abubakar Ali, the centre's chairman. "We are all together. There is no difference between any religions. We are all one community."

The investigation has been hampered by the discovery of asbestos in the ruins, but police have continued to gather forensic evidence alongside information from individuals and CCTV footage.

Barnet Borough Commander Adrian Usher spoke out against media coverage of the fire. "To discuss whether or not this is part of a wider debate on immigration is completely missing the point," he said. "This is not a debate, it is a crime. If you know anything at all about what happened here, then please get in touch with me, even if it's a rumour. It seems to me that the phrase 'All that is necessary for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing' is true in this case."

If you have any information call the incident room on 020 7230 2299 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous. Police are particularly keen to find out whether the letters EDL were seen on the building before the fire.

Arson attack: Library is haven for Somalis

East Finchley Library is being used by members of the Somali Bravanese community made homeless by the arson attack as a temporary office space until their centre is rebuilt.

Barnet Council has offered representatives of the community wide-ranging use of the library after 5pm on weekdays, Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

Cllr Robert Rams, cabinet member for customer access and partnerships, said: "After the heinous attack we've received many offers of support from residents, businesses and other faith groups. We've evaluated the offers and feel that a temporary solution at East Finchley Library is the best option. "I'm delighted at the way every-

one has pulled together in the face of such a cowardly crime and that our offer of a temporary new home will secure the centre's future in the heart of the community." Abubakar Ali, chairman of the Bravanese Centre, said: "We're very grateful to Barnet Council for the temporary support of an administrative office and meeting rooms, and to local schools and communities who have stepped up to host our after-school and weekend learning activities."



The mums and babies meet up at the Clissold Arms

Network for new mums... and their babes in arms

By Nick Young

Antenatal care for expectant mothers is widespread and prevalent, but what support is there after the baby has arrived?

Elise Mendelle and Gemma Frenchman are two experienced mums who asked themselves that question. To seek answers, they started their own support group, which has become Nurturing Mums, a six-week course based at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green aimed at addressing the concerns and needs of new mums in north London.

"We were both exposed to an abundance of antenatal support during our pregnancies," they explained. "However, once our first babies were born, we felt alone and left entirely to our own devices."

The course includes guest speakers, a professional photographer and an 'indulgent pamper morning'. The main focus, though, is to offer new

mums a non-judgemental and supportive environment where they can share their experiences and make friends.

"We set up our first group in November and had four mums," said Canada-born Elise, a chiropractor and culture blogger based in North Finchley. "Most of them came to us through Netmums, an online parenting website with local classifieds. Our next course was in January,

and we were fully booked with 10 mums. We are currently running our fourth group and are looking to start running them more often and in different areas."

Elise and Gemma says the Clissold is a nice open space that is baby-friendly and where mums can breastfeed if they like. For further information, see the website: www.nurturingmumsuk.com

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Sippy Azizzollah with (from left) Barbara Bus Fund Co-ordinator Julia Pryor, volunteer driver John Jones and Bob Blackman (MP for Harrow East). Photo courtesy of Julia Pryor

Transport charity needs drivers

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Barbara Bus Fund is appealing for reliable and friendly volunteer drivers. Who was Barbara, why does she have buses named after her, and why are they so important? Firstly, they are not actual buses, but vehicles adapted for wheelchair users. Barbara Werndly was disabled by polio and a long term patient at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. Supported by friends, family and hospital staff, she raised enough money to get the first 'bus' on the road. That was in 1969. Now there are nine vehicles at Stanmore, with others in Wales, Stoke Mandeville and Yorkshire, all run by the Barbara Bus Fund.

New lease of life

East Finchley's Sippy Azizzollah has used the service for about 10 years. She told The Archer: "They have been a new lease of life for me, as I love to go to meetings, meals, quizzes and, best of all, days at the seaside. I have two close friends who are also wheelchair users, and we do many trips together in one of the large buses. The co-ordinators do a fantastic job organising all the trips. The drivers are great, and all of us enjoy the chats we have on the way to and from our destinations."

As Sippy says, those destinations are often local, but journeys can be longer. The

point is to enable disabled people to get out whenever they want to.

Vehicles are available to people who have a friend or relative to drive them, with no charge except the cost of the fuel and a donation to the Fund, but there is also a small group of volunteer drivers to call upon. Passengers using a volunteer driver just pay a small mileage charge.

So if you enjoy driving and meeting new people, why not give the Fund a call on 020 8416 0733 or visit the website www.barbarabus.com, and if you are a wheelchair user needing help with transport, do give the Fund a try.

End of an era at Christ's College

By Ann Bronkhorst

Gary Tucker, head of Christ's College Finchley, retires this summer after nearly ten years in post. His teaching career began there in 1980, making him one of a diminishing breed: teachers who stay at one school, developing a deep understanding of its formal and informal structures and shaping its ethos.

As a young geography teacher he was impressed by the original, eccentric Christ's College buildings in Hendon Lane, but for most of his career he has worked in the current premises off East End Road. And as the buildings changed, so did the school, now an academy specialising in maths and computing, linked with local primary and secondary schools, schools abroad (Finland and South Africa), the London School of Economics, and businesses such as the Pentland Group.

One change that would



surprise the school's founders is the arrival, about a decade ago, of girls in the Sixth Form. Mr Tucker is positive about their impact, as he is too about the increasing diversity of the school's intake.

Students' school councils with real teeth, taking real decisions, have his approval, as do the strong pastoral and learning support systems. Christ's College has long since shed what he calls its 'Tom Brown's Schooldays' image, yet he enjoys the irony of being Commanding Officer (as headteacher) of the second oldest Cadet Corps in the country and

smiles at the surprise of C.O.s from public schools on finding that a London academy can, in a sense, outrank them.

Future plans

As chair of Barnet Secondary Headteachers' Group, Mr Tucker says of his role: "It's a family of schools and you nurture it." Ahead are more committees: the London Leadership Strategy and Pixl (Partners in Excellence, a national team), to which he will bring his energy, directness and sense of 'family'.

"I'm sure Mr Tucker will be sorely missed," said former pupil Daniel Hampson. "He was always helpful and treated us fairly: a man who lived and breathed the school."

Gary Tucker won't miss the roar of the North Circular but says he will remember, and miss, the long playing field with its changing views over north London. Perhaps there'll be a moment to capture it with his camera or his watercolours before saying goodbye to Christ's College and setting off for some glorious sailing.

Arson in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

The seat near the signpost in Coldfall Wood was set on fire in daylight in the early evening of Monday 3 June. The fire brigade extinguished the fire but the seat, made largely of metal and dense rubber, was completely destroyed.

Parents and children walking through the wood to and from Coldfall Primary School, as well as dog-walkers and courting couples, will be sorry to lose that convenient seat. Such a perverse act of destruction is hard to understand.

A noticeboard at the south-eastern corner of Muswell Hill Playing Field, carrying information about the field, the wood and the Friends' activities, was damaged earlier that evening and its glass shattered. Mending the noticeboard and replacing the seat will be costly.

A scooter was set on fire in the wood on Wednesday 19 June, again in the early evening.

Police patrols in the area will be increased. Please call 101 about non-urgent suspicious behaviour in the wood or on the field and 999 about on-going crime.

Parking ticket problem solved

By Diana Cormack

Last September we carried the story of how, earlier in the year, local resident Debbie Hoare was given a penalty notice despite displaying a valid parking permit on her windscreen. Debbie appealed but her appeal was rejected because, according to the Civil Enforcement Officer's report, "no permit was found on the vehicle" (*THE ARCHER*, September 2012).

To back up her case Debbie provided a photograph of the permit, which she had downloaded following the guidelines on the parking service website and placed over her expired permit. The guidelines state that Civil Enforcement Officers should be aware of the variation between home-printed versions and those mailed out. However, it seemed that it was Debbie's word against the Officer's report.

But Debbie, of Cherry Tree Road, refused to give in. In November the Parking

and Traffic Appeals Service informed her that the London Borough of Barnet was not going to contest her appeal against the penalty charge notice. A letter from Barnet said the reason for this was "because you have a valid permit". Surely "had a valid permit" would have been more applicable? This is what Debbie had been telling them all along and, if a little common sense had been used, the borough could have saved a lot of time and some taxpayers' money.

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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



Two women robbed within minutes

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Police are appealing for witnesses to two robberies that took place within minutes of each other on Monday 10 June.

At 11.15pm, a 23-year-old woman was waiting for a bus on the High Road when a silver hatchback car pulled up alongside her. Two men got out of the car and grabbed her, then snatched her bag and the phone from her hand, jumped back into the car and drove off.

Just minutes later, a 30-year-old local woman was attacked by a young man as she walked home from the tube station. As she reached the corner of The Causeway and Cedar Drive, the victim was pushed from the side with such force that she fell to the ground. She screamed to attract the attention of other people she'd noticed coming up The Causeway behind her.

The man, who was masked with a dark scarf around his face, put his hands on her forehead and over her mouth. "I was so scared I stopped screaming and told him to take my bag," said the victim. "As soon as it was in his hand, he ran away, got into a silver car and drove off."

The man is described as white, in his early 20s and about 5ft 6ins tall. He was wearing dark clothes and a black cap and had an English accent. If you have any information about these crimes, please contact the police on 101. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Spate of robberies

There were other robberies

in June. At 8.30pm on 13 June a pedestrian walking along Durham Road had their phone snatched by someone on a bicycle. The following day someone on a motorcycle snatched a shoulder bag from a woman walking along Fortis Green at 1.50pm. On 15 June at 7.50pm a man walking near Willow House on the Grange Estate was pushed to the ground by some people on foot and had some property stolen. Another phone was snatched from a victim who was also pushed to the ground on 17 June at 7.35pm on Trinity Road.

Can you deliver The Archer?

We're on the lookout for volunteers who can distribute The Archer to homes on the Hampstead Garden Suburb side of N2.

There are several roads not covered in the area between Brim Hill and Lyttelton Road, including: Widdecombe Way, Vivian Way, Harford Walk, Totnes Walk, Devon Rise, Cornwood Close, Gurney Drive, Blandford Close and Greenhalgh Walk.

If you can spare 30-45 minutes each month to deliver for us, please contact us by email on the-archer@lineone.net or by telephone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

To the battlefields of Gallipoli



Peter Hart and Roger Chapman with their holiday reading.

With the centenary of the First World War nearly upon us, more and more people are travelling to the battlefields to remember what happened and the sacrifices made by all sides.

Peter Hart and Roger Chapman, who both live in East Finchley, have been running two tours a year to the Gallipoli battlefield for the last three years. Peter is a world renowned historian with two books on the 1915 Gallipoli campaign to his name and numerous books on many other aspects of the First World War.

Our photo shows the pair on their most recent trip near Anzac Cove, with the sphinx in the background, and as you can see they took along a copy of The Archer for all the latest East Finchley news. Comes in handy for lining the suitcase too!

More details about the Gallipoli tours can be found at <http://phbt.wordpress.com>.

Where's a giant cat when you need one?

Residents of Chandos Road were not a little shocked to look out of their windows in May and see a giant rat standing in the road.

The huge inflatable was part of a demonstration organised by the Unite union against a company allegedly involved in blacklisting employees in the construction industry, whose company secretary lives in Chandos Road. Our photo was taken by Joanne Loh.



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Festival back with a bang!

Well, after a year off thanks to rain, East Finchley Community Festival made the greatest comeback with a fantastic day of music, fun and food that had Cherry Tree Wood jam-packed with festival goers from start to finish.

You turned out in force to support the event and the crowds were huge right from the moment the band of 393 Finchley Squadron Air Training Corps marched onto the field at the head of the street parade to hear Councillor Alison Moore with host Pat 'Havemercy' Leacock open the festivities from the main stage.

Music from local bands and performances from community groups were the centrepiece of the event on Sunday 23 June, with inflatable slides, games, food and beer getting people of all ages into the party atmosphere.



Cheers! All profits from the beer tent go towards next year's festival.



The band of 393 Finchley Squadron Air Training Corps leads the parade into Cherry Tree Wood.



Jump, jump, jump! Music lovers at the main stage.



The Dollis Brook Potato Slappers. Photo by Mike Coles

Hundreds grabbed homemade shakers and maracas to join in a world record attempt for the largest percussion band. As we went to press, we were still waiting to hear if we smashed the record. Fingers crossed!

Congratulations to everyone who put in months of hard work to make this year's festival such a success. We're already looking forward to next year's, and in the meantime we hope you enjoy our photos from the day, taken by Mike Coles, Toni Morgan and John Lawrence.



Fancy dress photo by Toni Morgan



Bottle shaking record attempt. Photo by Mike Coles

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Youngsters with painted faces try their luck on The Archer's treasure hunt. Photo Toni Morgan



Pat 'Havemercy' Leacock and Councillor Alison Moore, left, open the festival



Festival Fun. Photo Mike Coles



Panning for fool's gold on the Archer Academy stall.



Youngsters from the Fortitude dance group on the Helen O'Toole Community Stage.



Earthy bargains to be had on the Woodcraft Folk stall.



A young fan enjoys the music of the Jazz Guitar Ensemble.



Guitar solo! A music-mad youngster at the main stage.

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Festival Fun. Photo Mike Coles

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YOUNG ARCHER



Dhillon Goward, left, and Joe Lawrence at the Eiffel Tower.

We made it!

By Joe Lawrence

On the May bank holiday weekend I set off to cycle from London to Paris with my dad, my friend Dhillon Goward, who's 13 like me, and his dad Ben. The goal was to cycle the 200 miles to Paris in four days.

As we started it seemed daunting, the prospect of cycling more than 50 miles every day for four days. But with the thought of £400 sponsorship for Cancer Research behind me I persevered and made it, red-faced and panting.

The funniest memory was after a long, hard day of cycling through the rolling countryside of France we arrived at a humble little village and found our hotel behind some high gates. We weren't expecting much but when we got inside we found an amazing hotel with its own games room!

The worst experience was the last day, when we all had

aching muscles, we were saddle sore and it was chucking down with rain. It seemed like the longest task at the time but eventually the Eiffel Tower peaked over the lip of a hill and that was the biggest motivator of all. That was the goal, the end.

When I got to Paris and stood in front of the tower the sense of accomplishment was unlike any other I've ever felt. And the relief I felt was the most satisfying.

Thank you to all my sponsors. If you would like to donate to Cancer Research too, it is not too late and you can do it via this link: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/londonparis>

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Coldfall kids get hands on cup

By Josie Dobrin

Coldfall Primary School are absolutely thrilled to have won this year's Met Police Haringey Football Cup for Year 6 pupils for the first time since 2005. The team played four games before the final, which was played on Wednesday 22 May against Rhodes Avenue School.

Team captain Archie West said: "The match was one of the closest games ever. We showed brilliant spirit to come back from 1-0 down when Kaylum scored one of the best goals I've seen in a long time. With the score at full time being 2-2 we gave it one last push in extra time to score the goal that we needed to make the score 3-2 to

Coldfall. When the final whistle went the whole team went nuts. We finally had our hands on the trophy."

Stelios Ekkeshis, head of sport at Coldfall Primary School, said: "It was such a wonderful evening of football! Everyone was buzzing and it is a lovely end to the season for the squad in their final year at

Coldfall to become Haringey champions. The team displayed an amazing spirit and team work. I'm so proud of them all."

As a result of his performance during the Cup Final, Year 5 pupil Kido Taylor-Hart has been selected to represent the Haringey football squad at London Youth Games in Crystal Palace on 4 July.



Cup-Winners: Players from the Coldfall Primary School football team celebrate their victory.

Barnet FC: A season of new beginnings

By Daniel Weir

At the end of April Barnet FC dropped out of the Football League after a seemingly endless fight against relegation over its past eight seasons. A return to the Conference isn't the only big change that Barnet fans are going to have to adapt to as the club has played its final game at the Underhill stadium.

The fans feel "somewhat disappointed to leave our spiritual home at Underhill after such a long time", according to Derek Rocholl, chair of the Barnet FC Supporters Trust.

Settling in

The club now has a new home at its training ground in Canons Park, in the London Borough of Harrow. It chose to move there after being thwarted in its attempts to secure the Barnet Cophall site, now the new home of Premiership rugby club Saracens RFC. It aims to stay at the Hive for 10 years, with the target of moving back to the borough of Barnet, into a stadium with a capacity of 10,000 plus.

The Hive, which takes its name from the Black and Amber shirt of 'the Bees', has a capacity of just above 5,000, with around 3,500 of those seated. The club has told fans it's also easily accessible, as

it's on the Jubilee line, has a car park with 350 spaces and is six miles away from Underhill by road.

Bees are buzzing

Despite their relegation Barnet did end their 106-year association with Underhill on a positive note, as they won an action-packed affair 1-0, with veteran goalkeeper Graham Stack heroically saving a last gasp penalty after Jake Hyde had given the Bees the lead, in front of a rare capacity crowd of 6,000.

The club can also look forward to next season on the pitch as it has been confirmed that Edgar Davids, the former Dutch international and a UEFA Champions League winner, will stay as head coach. The fact that Davids is staying is said to be a "vote of confidence in the groundwork being put into the club so that it can compete," Mr Rocholl said.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage
- **Bringing up Baby.** Screenings of the latest films for parents with babies. Phoenix Cinema. Wednesdays 11am. Box office 020 8444 6789.
- **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- **Newstead Parent & Toddler Group,** Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- **Stepping Stones,** interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.
- **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thursdays 9.45am & 10.45am. Liz 07836 284538.



Honour for Wendy

Congratulations to Wendy Hallett who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours last month. Wendy is the founder of Hallett Retail and the Fuse fashion network, based in the High Road, which brings together young and boutique fashion brands and runs concessions in high street stores and online.



Before setting up her successful business, Wendy spent 13 years at Arcadia progressing from graduate trainee to store manager, including overseeing Topshop's Oxford Street flagship store.

This year, she was chair of the Retail Trust London Ball which raised over £1 million for the Retail Trust, the principal charity of the retail industry.

Wendy said she was "thrilled" by the honour, which recognises her services to diversity in the retail industry.



Getting creative: Glass tiles and papier mache cars are among the items to be decorated at Tina's studio

Station to bloom again

By Sheila Armstrong

There were gnomes at the Chelsea Flower Show this year; could they also appear outside our tube station this summer? The theme for this year's Station in Bloom competition is 150 Years of the Tube.

N2 Gardeners, who look after Station Bank, the sloping garden to the right of the station entrance, think that two things are special about East Finchley station: the fact that the trains come up from underground at this point, and the art deco station building with the sculpture of Archie.

Station employee Santos Ninor has entered East Finchley station for the Station in Bloom competition again this year.

Can you help?

N2 Gardeners say the first task is fundraising and they'd welcome all kinds of help with this, including financial dona-

tions. Other help needed is general gardening preparation (on Station Bank particularly) and planting and upkeep of the platform tubs as judging does not take place until later this month.

Monica Alaman of N2 Gardeners told *The Archer* that last year was a lot of fun: it was a shared local initiative and many commuters and passers-by expressed their appreciation of the "greened" station. Offers of help for N2 Gardeners this year would be very welcome, please contact them via n2gardeners@gmail.com, or via their blog, <http://n2gardeners.blogspot.com>.

Hands-on creativity

For anyone with a creative impulse inside them, there's a new outlet at the Creativity Crazy studio at the north end of East Finchley. Tina Phillips has set up a light and airy space where anyone can drop in for a spot of painting on pottery, ceramics, canvas and glass.

Tina, who originally trained as a baby sensory therapist, decided to follow her interest in arts and crafts by setting up this family-friendly studio, where all ages are welcome. She offers a wide range of items for decoration and one attractive point is that there's no studio fee so you only pay for the item you want to paint, all other materials are free.

Opened at the start of May, the studio in the parade of shops in the High Road opposite the Vue cinema is already attracting a steady flow of children, teenagers and adults. Tina has plans for holiday workshops for children, and adults' eve-

nings where painting can be accompanied by a glass of wine. Find out more at www.creativitycrazy.co.uk

Dig deep for the Big Dig

Here's a reminder following our report in last month's issue that East Finchley's first Big Dig takes place on the weekend of 13-14 July.

The weekend is all about discovering the history of East Finchley and is based on the Channel 4 Time Team archaeology programme approach.

People are being asked to dig a one metre square test pit in their garden to help uncover the past. Each square will be part of a mosaic that will build up a bigger picture of what was going on in former decades and centuries.

The East Finchley Big Dig is run by a partnership of the East Finchley Community Trust, the University College of London research project and the Hendon and District Archaeological Society.

If you want to know more please contact Roger Chapman on 07855 304 488 or email us at efbigdig@gmail.com. There's more information at: <http://east-finchleybigdig.wordpress.com/>

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Dress code: Casual

Once upon a time when the Queen got crowned and everyone knew their place, a man was not a man without a tie. Wearing your first tie was a rite of passage for boys, alongside learning to tie your own shoes or being allowed to use cutlery. It separated the boys from the babies and meant you could now grow up to be a man just like your father.

Back then ties weren't just for work, they were for life. From the first day at primary school to the day you died, a man was not a man without a tie. And it wasn't just Monday to Friday. At work it was dark suit, black shoes, white shirt and sober tie. At weekends it was cavalry twill trousers, a check shirt, brown shoes, blazer and a casual knitted tie. Some men probably wore a tie with their pyjamas.

Back then, when people stood up for the National Anthem, opened doors and gave up their seat for ladies the only time a real man was allowed to get away without wearing a tie was when playing sport. And just to avoid confusion, Britain's first Grand Prix world champion, Mike Hawthorn, raced to victory wearing a bow tie.

Then something changed that has distorted the space time continuum. It wasn't The Beatles or rock'n'roll, it was the Silicon Valley geeks who invented the dress-down Friday and ended the reign of the tie.

Nowadays, in the post-modern digital age of 48 different coffees everyone is dressing down on Fridays. Topshop and Burton's boss Sir Philip Green was spotted without a tie and even the prime minister was seen tie-less on holiday. Montague Burton must be rotating rapidly in his grave.

What next? Will the Queen start dressing down and appear at some state occasion in tweeds and green wellies? Will Charles abandon the admiral's uniform and turn up looking like he's just popping out to talk to plants. And what about Anne? Will she open a hospital looking like she's just ridden in the Grand National? Once something like this has started it cannot be stopped and the next thing you know Prince Harry will be photographed playing strip pool in a Las Vegas hotel room...



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.
- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07795 503752.
- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- **Tai Chi** class at EF Methodist Ch, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lillian 8444 1793.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30 pm. Free. All musicians welcome. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390



The cast of the Garden Suburb Theatre's production of *The Seagull*.

Open-air Chekhov

Garden Suburb Theatre's annual open-air production this year is Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, using a translation by Christopher Hampton.

Chekhov's play looks at the relationships between a group of people summering on a Russian country estate and explores familiar Chekhovian themes of unrequited love, how we define failure and success in life and the creative impulse in writers and actors. It is also, however, very funny.

The play opens on Friday 12 July at 7.30pm with evening performances on 13, 18, 19 and 20 July. There are also matinee performances on Sunday 14 and Saturday 20 July. Tickets cost £9 (£7 concs) and can be reserved by ringing 020 7723 6609.

Head start for Home-Start

On 28 July, Home-Start Barnet volunteer Mick Hutchings will be cycling 60 miles from London to Cambridge to raise money for the charity.

Home-Start Barnet offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children. The services they provide are made possible by volunteers.

Last year Mick raised over £500 for the charity by cycling the 40-mile Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle ride. He is hoping to raise even more this year. If you would like to sponsor Mick then go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MickHutchings>

The play is performed in the magical setting of the Little Wood Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb, off Addison Way, NW11 6QT and this production is supported by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust.

A (very wet) Midsummer Night's Dream

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

It was a June day at the open air theatre in the Bothy at Avenue House. The University College Dramatic Society were about to bring us *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Then down came the rain. Up went the umbrellas, but not for the actors. Soaked to the skin, they carried on even when showers became a downpour. That forced a halt just after the interval. But the show went on. Under cover, in a room so small that towelled-off actors and audience were in touching distance of each other, we found a bit of new magic in this familiar magical play.

We, the audience, now felt part of the household of the Duke of Athens. I was sitting next to reconciled lovers Helena and Demetrius. Up close to Bottom and his friends, we were on their side when the court made fun of them. We clapped and laughed together, and Puck's closing words, "Give me your hands if we be friends, and Robin shall restore amends", seemed nicely appropriate.

This modern dress production was lively and witty. An ironic Puck indicated that he sometimes got tired of zooming round the world at Oberon's orders; Bottom was no oaf but

July at the Phoenix

By Carina Volkes, Phoenix Cinema manager

Another month, another slate of great films at the Phoenix...

Director Sofia Coppola (*Lost in Translation*) is back with *The Bling Ring* from 5 July, further exploring the culture of celebrity with a look at the real-life teenage gang who carried out a spate of robberies in the Hollywood Hills, targeting the wardrobes of socialites such as Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan. Emma Watson of *Harry Potter* fame is all grown up and takes the lead.

From 12 July you can see Oscar-winning director Alex Gibney's latest documentary. *We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks* follows the very public story of Julian Assange and the young soldier who leaked hundreds of classified documents.

The month finishes with a wonderfully charming and funny New York film written by and starring Greta Gerwig. *Frances Ha*, from 26 July, is

a 20-something who is failing to grow up in New York City. When her best friend moves out and meets a man, Frances is forced to reassess her life.

Look out for Guy Pearce starring in drama *Breathe In* from 19 July, and limited shows of Joss Whedon's acclaimed *Much Ado About Nothing* and French period drama *Thérèse Desqueyroux*, both from 12 July.

We're very excited about Tuesday 23 July when new British film *A Field in England* will be receiving a one-off screening with a special Q&A from director Ben Wheatley (*Sightseers*) and star (and Phoenix Cinema local) Reece Shearsmith. Tickets are going fast for this one!

Finally, on 20 July and 5 August you can see Kenneth Branagh star in the new production of *Macbeth* live from the Manchester International Festival, and catch up with two hit plays from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: *Twelfth Night* is on Monday 22 July and *The Taming of the Shrew* on Monday 29 July.

Youth work on film

Volunteers working with young people in London are being urged to take part in a film competition to tell the story of youth work.

The National Youth Agency is campaigning for better understanding and recognition of the value that professional and volunteer youth workers bring, helping young people to gain vital jobs skills, contribute to their communities and improve their wellbeing.

All submissions will be entered automatically into a competition to win a cash prize that will be put towards their youth work project. The winners will be announced during Youth Work Week November 2013. Visit www.nya.org.uk/transforming-lives for information on how to enter.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Wednesday 3 July

• Drop-in session about **The Archer Academy** and its building plans for Stanley Road playing field; exhibition, virtual video tour and chance to ask questions; Holy Trinity Primary School, Eagans Close, N2, 3.30pm to 8pm. All welcome.

Thursday 4 July

• Launch of **East Finchley Altogether Better** project. People living or working in East Finchley are invited to East Finchley's first one-day EFAB conference, 10am to 3pm at Shree Aden Depala Mitra Mandal Community Centre, 67a Church Lane, N2 8DR. Bring friends, family, neighbours and colleagues.

Saturdays 6, 13, 20 July

• **North London Artisan Market**; best quality seasonal produce, and a piece of London's vibrant street food scene; 10am-2pm at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July

• **East Finchley Open Artists' Open House Weekends** from 11am-6pm; landmark

10th Open House Weekend has 45 local artists who warmly welcome you to visit them, free. Exciting, innovative pieces and paintings in informal settings. www.facebook.com/eastfinchleyopen or visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk for online maps of venues and artists.

Saturday 6 July

• **Finchley Choral Society** performs Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3 3DJ, 7.45pm, tickets £13 (concessions available) from box office 020 7263 3358 or on the door.

Thursday 11 July

• **Poetry in the House**, Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8pm, Tickets £5 (£3 concessions) on the door; Matthew Francis, Lance Lee and Maurice Riordan combine diverse backgrounds and writing styles for the season's first poetry reading.

Friday 12 July to Saturday 20 July

• **Garden Suburb Theatre presents The Seagull** by Anton Chekhov at the Little Wood

Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb, off Addison Way, NW11 6QT. Various times. Tickets £9 (£7 concessions). Details: 020 7723 6609.

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July

• **East Finchley's Big Dig**; get involved in discovering the past below our feet. Details at <http://eastfinchleybigdig.wordpress.com/>

Sunday 14 July

• **Monthly Sunday market**. Outdoor and indoor stalls. Crafts, gifts, collectables, food. 10am-6pm at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.

• **Free music concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; Beatrice Nicholas, piano. Programme includes Liszt, Schumann, Chopin and Beethoven. Free admission; collection in aid of Iris Ministries, Mozambique, caring for children across southern Africa. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Saturday 20 July

• **Butterfly Day at Long Lane Pasture**, Long Lane, opposite Fire Station, as part of the national Big Butterfly Count. Come and see if you can identify any butterflies.

Sunday 21 July

• **National Garden Scheme Open Garden** (supporting charities). 2-6pm at 79 Church Lane, N2. Plant stall, gardenalia bric-a-brac stall, raffle with prizes.

• **Alexandra Palace and Park's 150th anniversary celebrations**; exciting line-up of free family activities and entertainment from 11am to 4pm.

Tuesday 23 July to Sunday 4 August

• **Art exhibition: 'Impressive and Narrative Paintings'** by Thomas Hogan and Simon Kirk. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N65HG. www.thoganartworks.com

Sunday 28 July

• **Party in the Park**. Food, crafts, brass band, fun and games. 12-5pm at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.



Letters to the editor...

This pointless arson

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the Hilldrop Community Centre, in Holloway, Islington. A few weeks ago, our Singing Group and Ukulele Group were invited to entertain at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, Teatime Club. We enjoyed the afternoon, and I was invited back again to lead some singing at the Teatime Club for their 28th anniversary. A few members were late arriving, as they were delayed by a police cordon, which we later heard was due to a fire in a community centre.

When I heard the news that an Islamic Centre had been razed to the ground and completely destroyed, I was shocked and saddened. This seemed to be a retaliation for the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby at Woolwich, but almost all the Muslim community have been devastated by that atrocity. I pray that the perpetrators of the Muswell Hill fire will realise how futile the burning of the centre is.

Community centres are a life-line and an oasis of friendship and learning in different areas. I couldn't believe that such a thing could happen in such a lovely quiet area of North London. Please may people realise that the majority of residents and neighbourhoods long to live in peace, love and harmony with each other.

Yours sincerely,
Joan Hewitt,
Hilldrop Crescent, N7.

Respect for conservation

Dear Editor,

Pardes House School, built in the 1860s as Christ's College, at Church End, Finchley, is a Grade II listed building. This should give statutory protection for all the structures on the site, and impose an obligation on its owners.

Despite this there have been significant losses. The Fives Courts were demolished in 1998 and the wall along College Terrace followed; there has been a most unsightly fence there for several years.

Barnet Council took enforcement action in respect of the wall in 2006 to require its rebuilding. It was only in 2012 that the school authorities made any effort to comply, and sought the council's permission to replace the wall with a lesser structure.

This proposal was opposed by the Finchley Society and by local residents, including ones from College Terrace who look straight on to the present fence. The application was discussed by the council on 8 May and refused by a majority vote.

This is a gratifying decision (though it is regrettable that the Church End ward councillor on the committee was one of the minority). The Finchley Society hopes that the school authorities will now engage in constructive discussions with the local community about the reinstatement of the wall and the maintenance of the school buildings generally. They are a very important part of the Church End Conservation Area and must be kept for future generations.

Yours faithfully,
Carol Halls,
Chairman, Planning Committee, The Finchley Society

Cut the cut-back on trees

Dear Editor,

The trees in East Finchley High Road were pollarded again this year when they had only a small amount of growth on them. They had managed to produce this from the last time they were done, which was last year as far as I recall.

They were lovely before they were "done" as they had some growth and green starting to appear. They are now ugly, horrible stumps with no growth, even at the beginning of June.

The beauty of a tree is in its foliage and also its usefulness in terms of releasing oxygen and taking in toxins. As far as I can discover from local residents, none of them likes the trees being pollarded. I fear they are probably done by rote and not by reason.

It is an unnecessary expense on taxpayers as the trees should only be trimmed if required by a resident regarding one particular tree, not just for no particular reason or for one that does not really stand up against the need of the environment to be preserved and not destroyed.

We need the London Wildlife Trust to be fully consulted in these matters by the council tree department, and a completely new and different attitude to our trees, particularly our street trees, to be cultivated.

Yours faithfully,
Primrose Chamberlin,
Leicester Road, N2.

A bleak outlook on ash dieback

Dear Editor,

A few months ago I wrote giving the 'received wisdom' on the situation regarding Chalara fraxinea, (ash dieback disease) which was that every effort is being made to identify and propagate resistant genotypes of ash tree, with a view to rapid repopulation, should the disease take hold.

This week, I attended the Ancient Tree Forum 2013 conference (which deals especially with veteran native trees, but includes a vast pool of arboreal knowledge and expertise), and the situation is far more pessimistic.

The chances of finding a suitable resistant strain and solving the problem are seen as optimistic drivel. The disease has now turned up in many places, not just in the southeast, but as far away as Carmarthenshire. In Kent and in the vicinity of ports such as Felixstowe, any efforts to contain the disease have been abandoned, as the spread is too extensive, and even the experts are divided over how to deal with infected trees without bringing about further spread of fungal spores.

That very day, there had been a consultation with the relevant Government minister, to discuss whether there should be a much tougher regime with regard to import and subsequent movement of all plant material (the words 'barn door', and 'bolted horse' come to mind).

It really is a case of waiting to determine the 'best practice', and does of course also depend upon available funding. The advice given to those with ash trees was to do

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nothing yet. The disease seems to affect younger trees, whilst more mature ones seem to have a greater chance of survival but it may be that it is just that the symptoms take longer to manifest.

That particular topic at the conference ended with a strong feeling that Britain should consult with tree experts in Poland and Scandinavia, as they are some years ahead of us in terms of the disease having taken hold of their ash trees a decade or more ago, and also, rather realistically it seems, that deadwood does provide a good habitat for many organisms, particularly invertebrates.

Yours faithfully,
Linda Dolata (small woodland owner)
Leopold Road, N2.

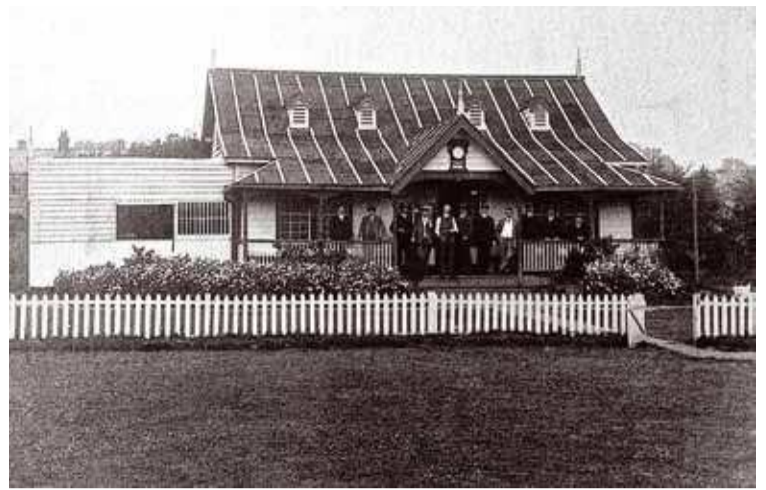
Preparing for a healthy holiday

If you're planning to go abroad, you won't have to travel far for appropriate medical advice and treatment. The CW Andrew Pharmacy at 32, High Road has recently added a travel clinic to its services, offering a convenient local alternative to doctors' surgeries and the Royal Free Hospital Travel Health Centre.

Pharmacist Paresh Shah told *The Archer* that people should begin preparing for their holidays at least two months in advance. An initial appointment with him will establish what is required for a particular destination, with an on-going plan drawn up for any necessary vaccinations and specific needs. This will include anti-malarial advice, with prescription-free medication being available.

At present the clinic caters for the age range 16 and above (though in some cases for over 12s). This is worth remembering for students going abroad on school journeys, to do voluntary work or on gap-year travels. At the clinic pilgrims for Hajj and Umrah can get the required meningitis vaccination and Meningitis Vaccination Certificate.

Wherever you are going, this advice is available most weekdays and on Saturdays. For more information or to make an appointment pop in to the shop or phone 020 8883 1559.



The North Middlesex Cricket Club was burned down by suffragettes 100 years ago.

What a difference a century makes...

In June 1913 the North Middlesex Cricket Club Pavilion in Crouch End was burned down by suffragettes as part of their campaign for women to have the right to vote. One hundred years on, the club commemorated the centenary of this event with a celebration of girls' cricket.

Beth Morgan, the Middlesex Womens Captain, was a surprise guest and took the warm-up for the practice. Beth won the World Cup and Ashes while playing for England Women. There were then two under-11 girls' matches followed by an Edwardian tea party.

Under 11 Girls team manager Mike Harris said: "Girls' cricket is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. The girls' cricket section at North Middlesex CC has more than doubled in the last two years and we look forward to welcoming girls of all ages and abilities who want to play cricket."

Find more details at www.northmiddlesexcc.co.uk



Middlesex Women's captain Beth Morgan took the warm-up for the girls' cricket match.

Art show at the Clissold

By Sheila Armstrong
Trained as a lawyer, local resident Raphael Prais has turned his hand to the arts, specifically drawing and writing. In June his art show *Drawings by Raphael Prais* was showing in the back room at The Clissold, the gastro pub on Fortis Green. Previously he has had a show at the Mango Room in Camden Town.

Viewing the life drawings in pastel and charcoal *The Archer* was able to talk to Raphael on the opening night. He said it was more exciting to be an artist than a lawyer and he has been known to sketch in court in the past. Previously he has published a novel on Amazon and is also writing another novel at the moment. Whether it will have a legal background or not remains to be seen.

Find out more about his writing and pictures at <http://raphaelprais.weebly.com>. For a trip down Memory Lane the rosily-lit Kinks Room at The Clissold is also worth a look.

Ally Pally's big birthday

Put Sunday 21 July in your diary for the big community celebration to honour Alexandra Park's 150th anniversary. There will be an exciting line-up of free family activities and entertainment from 11am - 4pm.

According to Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust, the "jam-packed programme", to be released soon, will include activities reflecting the park's vibrant and eclectic past, featuring local community groups, entertainers and businesses. It's easy to forget some of the more memorable aspects of the Park's history since its opening in 1863: a miniature Japanese village, hot air balloon rides, a band stand, a diving pavilion, the frying pan-shaped horse-racing course, and a permanent Park circus, not forgetting what's still there, such as the deer park, boating lake and unparalleled views of London.

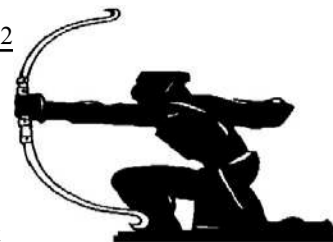


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Photograph by Nigel Sutton

Fair in the Square

Spectacular stilt walkers, a road train, old-fashioned merry-go-rounds and a sheep show were all part of the Fair in the Square in Highgate on Saturday 15 June, which was a huge success despite some dreadful downpours at times. Next year's fair will be on Saturday 14 June and the team behind it are keen to hear from anyone interested in helping with organisation. Email: thefairinthesquare@gmail.com

Panorama from the pasture

Visitors to Long Lane Pasture now have the chance to enjoy the panoramic view across Finchley with the help of a new vista sign to tell them exactly what they're looking at.

The metal information sign, designed by Chris Brown, has been installed on the highest point of the pasture, known as Octavia Hill, after the English social reformer of the 19th century who is thought to have played in the area as a child and who became a co-founder of the National Trust. The sign was one of the main

attractions of the pasture's open weekend at the start of June, just one of a busy programme of events there through the spring and summer.

Pupils from Manorside School, Squires Lane, visited recently and observed a great pond snail as well as newts, tadpoles and bees.

The children discussed pollution from the pasture's oil patch, dumped by builders many years ago and a constant problem as it keeps coming to the surface and destroying nearby vegetation.

Long Lane Pasture is delighted to welcome school visits by arrangement at: enquiries@longlanepasture.org.



Rose and Flora Bardell, of Lincoln Road, admiring the new vista sign at Long Lane Pasture.

Premiere of dramatic new orchestral work

By Sam Warner

On 6 July in Hampstead Garden Suburb's Free Church, local amateur orchestra the North London Sinfonia (formerly the Tudor Orchestra) will premiere a brand new and exclusive piece by young

up-and-coming composer Soosan Lolavar, who has worked with the orchestra for a year as part of the AdoptAComposer scheme.

Her composition, entitled *Things Come Together*, is inspired by the idea of collabo-


ration and community. "I was able to tailor parts to the specific standard of each player as I got to know them," says Lolavar. "They came from all over the world, were aged from their 20s to their 70s and had a wide variety of reasons for joining."

However, there is much more to the piece than meets the ear, being in part inspired by the title of the late Nigerian author Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. Lolavar had always loved the evocative and hopeless nature of the title.

The piece itself incorporates the use of tape, alongside 40 triangles, a feat inspired by her electronic music roots in which she discovered the classical side of composition. Lolavar used the same skills to record an ice-breaking session between all members of the orchestra who were less known to each other.

The performance of *Things Come Together* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 later this year.

Lolavar says: "Non-professional music-making really should be given the chance to shine and be celebrated much more than it is at the moment." She hopes that this airing will help other amateur orchestras and encourage other non-professionals to join a thriving community.



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